



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

January 6, 2004

**SENTENCING ON RAYMOND EDWARD BRAUN**

Tampa, FL - On January 6, 2004, U.S. District Judge Susan C. Bucklew sentenced RAYMOND EDWARD BRAUN of Brooksville, Florida, to a term of 180 months' imprisonment, to be followed by a term of three (3) years' supervised release. BRAUN pled guilty on October 3, 2003 to two counts of being a felon in possession of a firearm, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 922.

On two separate instances, on October 21, 2001 and April 13, 2002, deputies from the Hernando County Sheriff's Office responded to BRAUN's residence in Brooksville. There, they found BRAUN in possession of a number of firearms, including a .22 caliber pistol, a 9mm. handgun, and a 12 gauge shotgun. The deputies confiscated the firearms from him because BRAUN was, at the time, a person who had been previously convicted of numerous felony offenses. BRAUN has not had his right to possess a firearm restored.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle

District of Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

The case was investigated by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and the Hernando County Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney John F. Rudy, III of the Special Prosecutions Section of the Tampa Division.